NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
OPERATIONS RESEARCH AND FACILITIES
FY 2007 OVERVIEW

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA
($ in thousands)

Operations Research and Facilities	FY 2005 ACTUALS	FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Navigation Services	144,002	149,218	120,205	140,107	19,902
Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment	245,352	210,885	114,776	126,445	11,669
Ocean and Coastal Management	152,680	133,048	123,201	127,903	4,702
TOTAL	542,034	493,151	358,182	394,455	36,273
FTE	1,152	1,219	1,221	1,227	6

For FY 2007, NOAA requests an increase of $36,273,000 and 6 FTE for a total of $394,455,000 for the National Ocean Service (NOS) Operations, Research and Facilities account.

The National Ocean Service (NOS) is the primary Federal agency working for the nation through the observation, measurement, assessment, and management of the nation's coastal and ocean areas, as well as conducting response and restoration activities to protect vital coastal resources. An estimated 154 million people lived in coastal counties in 2004. Although coastal population growth has generally reflected the same rate of growth as the entire nation since 1980, the limited land area of coastal counties is increasingly strained by the density of the population growth. This increasing density, coupled with the fast-growing economy of coastal areas, makes the task of managing coastal resources increasingly difficult, especially with the nation's coastal population expected to increase by more than 6 million by 2008 and 11 million by 2015 (*Population Trends Along the Coastal United States: 1980-2008*).

As a national leader for coastal stewardship, NOS promotes a wide range of research activities to create the strong science foundation required to advance the sustainable use of our coastal systems. NOS provides improvements in the quality, quantity, geographic distribution, and timeliness of ocean and coastal observations. Observations by NOS assets and NOS partners are critical components of the Nation's Integrated Ocean Observing System, as well as fundamental contributors to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. NOS mapping, charting, geodetic, and oceanographic activities build on marine and coastal observations collected to increase the efficiency and safety of maritime commerce, support coastal resource management and address coastal flooding and water quality concerns. NOS protects and restores coastal resources injured by releases of oil and other hazardous materials.

NOS also manages marine sanctuaries and, in partnership with the coastal states, helps manage the Nation's valuable coastal zones and nationally significant estuarine reserves. NOS helps federal, state, local, and international managers build the suite of skills needed to protect, restore, and use coastal ecosystems by providing technical assistance, process and technical skill training, and other capacity building activities.

NOS has three subactivities: Navigation Services, Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment, and Ocean and Coastal Management.
The objectives of the Navigation Services subactivity are to:

- Build, Maintain, and Deliver a Nautical Charting Database
- Update Nautical Surveys
- Define the National Shoreline
- Develop the National Spatial Reference System
- Provide Real-Time Observations and Forecasts of Water Levels, Tides, and Currents

To achieve these objectives, NOAA conducts activities in several program areas within the Office of Coast Survey, the National Geodetic Survey, and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services. NOAA also represents these programs on the Interagency Committee for the Marine Transportation System. This committee was recently reestablished as a cabinet-level committee by the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

The objectives of the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment subactivity are to:

- Establish the framework through which the authorities of Federal and state agencies can be focused to protect and restore coastal resources.
- Recommend management actions to minimize the cumulative effects of coastal development on natural resources, especially NOAA's trust resources.
- Conduct research to define the nature and extent of human activities and conditions that threaten the health and productivity of the Nation's coastal resources.
- Conduct damage assessments to support negotiated settlements and litigation for recovering funds for restoration of injuries to NOAA's trust resources.
- Apply scientific expertise to mitigate the effects of human activities and facilitate environmental recovery, and undertake actions to restore ecosystem functions and resource values.
- Develop a Federal/state capability to research, monitor, assess, and predict coastal ecosystem structure and function to detect changes, evaluate management strategies, and identify actions to effectively manage threats to ecosystem health.
- Develop means for valuing non-market ecological resources and clarify the causes and significance of ecosystem changes.
- Facilitate the development and transfer of tools and technology that provide more effective mechanisms to protect, restore and use coastal ecosystems.
- Improve public understanding of functions and values of coastal ecosystems and enhance public access to information on coastal environmental quality and health risks from pollutants.

- Support NOAA's and the Nation's obligations under international treaties and conventions, and increase effectiveness of international programs for coastal environmental science and technology, integrated coastal zone management, and sustainability of coastal resources.

This subactivity contains the programs managed by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), the Office of Response and Restoration (ORR), the Coastal Services Center (CSC) and the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Technology (CICEET), co-administered by NOS' Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the University of New Hampshire. The goals of this subactivity use the authorities established in the Clean Water Act, Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA/Superfund), Oil Pollution Act, National Coastal Monitoring Act, Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act, Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act, Estuaries Restoration Act, Coral Reef Conservation Act, and other legislation to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources and the environmental quality of the Nation's coastal ecosystems.

The objectives of the Ocean and Coastal Management subactivity are to:

- Maintain and improve the quality and utility of the Nation's coastal lands and waters through a national network of Federally-approved, coordinated, and supported state management programs.
- Maintain the balance between resource protection and coastal-dependent economic activity.
- Provide technical assistance to states in the development, implementation, and improvement of state CZM programs and estuarine research reserves.
- Identify areas of the marine environment of special national significance due to their resource or human-use values.
- Develop the framework for a national network of marine protected areas.
- Support and coordinate scientific research on, and monitoring of, resources in protected areas.
- Coordinate the development of information, tools, strategies, and guidance to enhance and expand the protection of marine protected areas.
- Conduct a comprehensive, coordinated program of conservation and management of special marine areas.
- Enhance public awareness and understanding of the marine environment.
- Facilitate public/private uses of the resources of special marine areas compatible with resource protection.

To achieve these objectives, NOAA conducts activities in several program areas within the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the Marine Protected Areas Center and the National Marine Sanctuary Program Office.

In addition, NOS contributes significantly to achieving two of NOAA's Strategic Plan Mission Goals: Support the Nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation, and Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management. While these two goals capture much of the National Ocean Services' activities, NOS also supports and makes important contributions to NOAA's other mission goals: Understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and respond, Serve society's needs for weather and water information, and Mission Support.

Research and Development Investments:

The NOAA FY 2007 Budget estimates for its activities, including research and development programs, are the result of an integrated, requirements-based Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES) that provides the structure to link NOAA's strategic vision with programmatic detail, budget development, and the framework to maximize resources while optimizing capabilities. The PPBES process incorporates the President's Management Agenda and the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Research and Development Investment Criteria (relevance, quality, and performance) for NOAA's R&D programs, and leads to NOAA budget proposals that reflect the R&D investment criteria.

Significant Adjustments-to-Base (ATBs):

NOAA requests a net increase of 2 FTE and $416,000 to fund adjustments for National Ocean Service activities. This increase includes funds for inflationary adjustments for labor and non-labor, as well as rescissions that are restored from the FY 2006 Appropriation. Also included is an internal transfer of $612,000 to OMAO to fund NOAA Corps Officer positions that benefit NOS.

From Office	Line	To Office	Line	Amount
NOS	Mapping & Charting Base	OMAO	NOAA Corps	- $340,000
NOS	Geodesy Base	OMAO	NOAA Corps	- $68,000
NOS	Marine Sanctuary Program Base	OMAO	NOAA Corps	- $204,000

In addition, NOAA proposes to elevate three important NOS staff offices to program office status. This realignment will improve NOAA's effectiveness in meeting its ocean and coastal responsibilities and bring NOS programs closer to its customers and end-users. In accordance with the goals of the President's Management Agenda, this realignment enables the organization to further improve front-line service delivery. This proposal does not require any additional funds or FTE to be implemented. NOAA proposes to:

Elevate the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) from division level to program office status. The NMSP has entered the 21st century with increasingly more resource management challenges and growing national and international emphasis on marine protected areas. Currently, the National Marine Sanctuaries staff office is under the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The NMSP is a direct Federal management and regulatory program with distinct authorizing legislation. This realignment will position the NMSP to move forward effectively into a growing era of responsibility.

Elevate the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) from a staff office to program office status. With this elevation, CO-OPS becomes a focal point for NOS environmental monitoring and prediction in support of NOAA's contribution to the Global Ocean Observing System. This will allow CO-OPS to improve product lines by providing focused areas of expertise such as engineering, oceanography, field support etc. which can applied to all CO-OPS programs.

Elevate the Coastal Services Center (CSC) from a staff office to program office status. The mission, scope of activities, and operations of the CSC have expanded over the last several years, requiring a new organizational structure which reflects its national influence and responsibilities. Elevation to program office will provide the status needed to better and more consistently integrate activities across NOAA for other core capabilities.